

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 052330Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3599

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELIZE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 3626

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GT

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON BELIZE AND CUBA

REF: GUATEMALA 3645

1. DURING JULY 5 PRESS CONFERENCE, FOREIGN MINISTER ADOLFO MOLINA ORANTES REPORTEDLY REITERATED HIS JUNE 25 STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO PROBLEM OF BELIZE. ACCORDING TO USUALLY RELIABLE EL IMPARCIAL, MOLINA EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT BRITAIN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RENEWING DISCUSSIONS ON SUBJECT, WHICH WERE SUSPENDED BECAUSE BRITISH REINFORCED THEIR TROOPS IN BELIZE. NOTING THAT GUATEMALA MAINTAINED ITS "RIGHTS" TO THE TERRITORY OF BELIZE, MOLINA COMMENTED THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITAIN THE PECULIARITIES, INSTITUTIONS, ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION AND TRADITIONS OF BELIZEANS SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED. MOLINA SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT CONTACT BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND BELIZE BE INTENSIFIED IN ORDER TO DISPEL BELIZEAN FEARS THAT INCORPORATION INTO GUATEMALA WOULD RESULT IN LOSS OF BELIZEAN IDENTITY (DEPERSONALIZARIA). MOLINA ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN "REINTEGRATING" BELIZE WITH ALL OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

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2. RE CUBA, MOLINA SAID GUATEMALA RESPECTS AGREEMENTS
(OAS RESOLUTION) AND HAD NOT CONSIDERED RE-ESTABLISHING
RELATIONS AT THE MOMENT, BUT HE LEFT DOOR OPEN SUCH
ACTION IN CONTEXT OF WIDER HEMISPHERIC DECISION.

3. COMMENT: MOLINA HAS REPUTATION AS HARDLINER ON BELIZE,
BUT HIS COMMENT RE BELIZEAN SENSITIVITIES
SUGGESTS HE HAS APPRECIATION OF REALITIES OF SITUATION.
HIS COMMENTS ON CUBA TAKE ESSENTIALLY SAME
LINE AS THAT FOLLOWED BY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. END COMMENT.
MELOY

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